stardust wink
scanner: neil
translator: yin
proofreader: Tronix, keeshbohn, beebee
cleaner: neil
typesetter: Romiz
qcs: Sync

Author talk ③

Hmm... lately I don't have anything special to write in this space. (^__^;) Maybe it's because I'm past the age of wanting to talk about my (manga writing) experiences, or maybe it's that I immediately start to forget them once the writing process is over. Either way... (0_<) !!

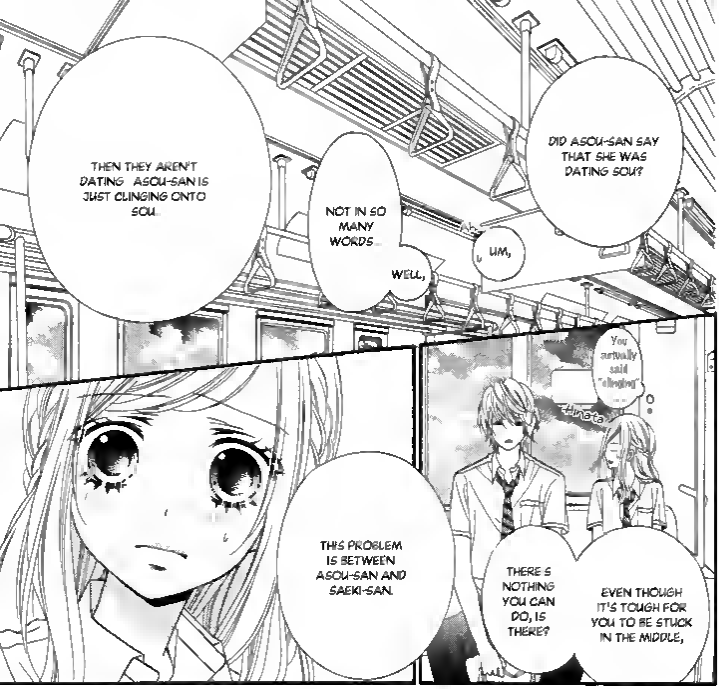
RATTLE
RATTLE
YOU KNOW,
SOMETIMES I WONDER IF YOU'RE PSYCHIC...
WHEN YOU WERE WAITING TO DRAW LOTS, I SAW THE TWO OF YOU TALKING
YOU GUYS WERE FAIRLY LOUD, YOU KNOW
SERIOUSLY?!
IT'S NOT LIKE I HEARD EVERYTHING,
JUST A FEW WORDS HERE AND THERE
AH,
IS THAT SO...

But my heart is beating so hard that it's painful.
This feeling,
I don't really understand why,
I might calm down if I talk to Hinata about it.
DURING THE FIRE WORKS FESTIVAL,
REMEMBER HOW WE RAN INTO AYANE-CHAN AND SOU?
AFTER THAT,
AYANE-CHAN TOLD ME "THANKS FOR NOT TELLING NANOKA."

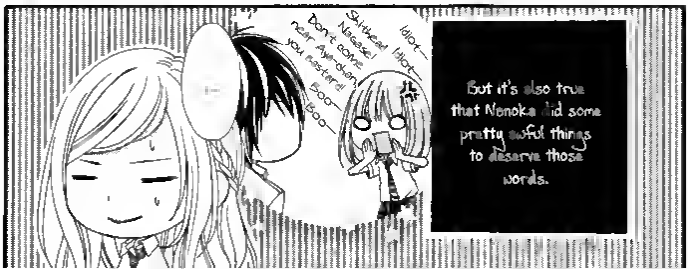
AH
NANOKA IS AYANE-CHAN'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND
SHE SEEMS TO BE OBSESSED WITH AYANE CHAN!!
Why would she thank you?
SHE STILL SEES SOU AS THE ENEMY BECAUSE HE DATED AYANE-CHAN A LONG TIME AGO
I SEE.
That's awesome
SHE EVEN KICKED UP A BIG FUSS OVER IT WHEN SHE FIRST START ED SCHOOL HERE

AND THEN...
AND "I DON'T WANT HER TO INTERFERE."
SHE SAID "NANOKA WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND EVEN IF I TOLD HER."
THAT'S WHY AYANE-CHAN DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY INTENTIONS OF TELLING NANOKA ABOUT SOU.

Ah-
BUT!
SAYING 'AYA-CHAN SEEMS TO HAVE A BOYFRIEND/' (CRIES)' AND ASKING FOR ADVICE,
NANOKA CAME TO ME ONCE,
SO IT'S HARD TO PRETEND I KNOW NOTHING
I'm stuck
BUT I CAN'T TELL HER EITHER
UM.
I DON'T THINK HE'S HER BOY-FRIEND
...PUTTING ASIDE THE QUESTION OF TELLING NANOKA,


DID ASOU-SAN SAY THAT SHE WAS DATING SOU?
UM,
WELL,
NOT IN SO MANY WORDS...
THEN THEY AREN'T DATING. ASOU-SAN IS JUST CLINGING ONTO SOU.
You actually said "clinging"...
Shocked
EVEN THOUGH IT'S TOUGH FOR YOU TO BE STUCK IN THE MIDDLE,
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO, IS THERE?
THIS PROBLEM IS BETWEEN ASOU-SAN AND SAEKI-SAN.

THAT
THAT'S TRUE
The way Aoane-chan talked
seemed cruel to be honest


Idiot—
Idiot—
Slithered
Nitesse!
Don't come near Ayaka-san, you fraternal
Boo—
Boo—
But it's also true that Nanoka did some pretty awful things to deserve those words.

Maybe it really is a problem I can't do anything about...
AH,
BY THE WAY,
THERE'S A MEETING FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB TOMORROW AFTER SCHOOL.
IT'S FINE IF YOU GO HOME FIRST.
... ALRIGHT.
SUZUI-SAN IS PART OF THE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB TOO, RIGHT?
APPARENTLY HIME AND RUI QUIT WHEN I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION.
HUH?

But,
that painful feeling I've been having is gone.
I've got to send it to them in different aspects

3

Story about the popularity poll (continued)

Those who vote have a pretty high chance of winning a present, so please make sure you participate!

Actually in volume 6 we included a survey postcard that people could send in, and we investigated character popularity once before using that. However the readership of this magazine is a little different from that of comics sold by the volume, so I'm looking forward to seeing what the results will be like this time. (^w^)

Incidentally, the results of the volume 6 survey's character popularity poll were

#1	? ? ?
#2	? ? ?
#3	? ? ?
#4	Ichihara Mashiro
#5	Kazami Hinata
#6	Coco
#7	Saeki Nanoka
#8	Asou Ayane
#9	Everyone Ichihara
#10	Kurenai

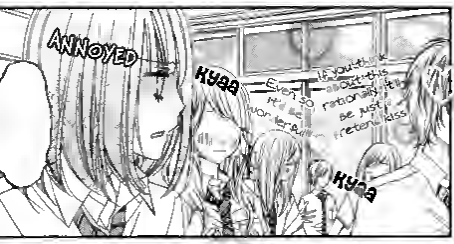
I bet you want to know the first three! (to be continued) →

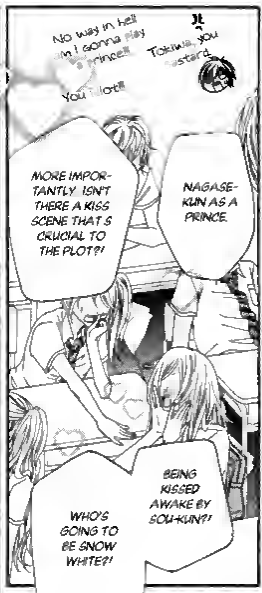
I'm glad I talked to Hinata.
OUR CLASS HAS DECIDED TO DO A PLAY FOR OUR STAGE PERFORMANCE IN THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL
DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY IDEA OF WHAT KIND OF PLAY THEY WANT TO DO?
I DO!

PREFERABLY SOMETHING LIKE "13 ASSASSINS"
With blood spraying everywhere!!
AH, YES
SO, A PERIOD DRAMA, IS THAT RIGHT?
There's blood, it's impossible!
A MARTIAL ARTS PRODUCTION.

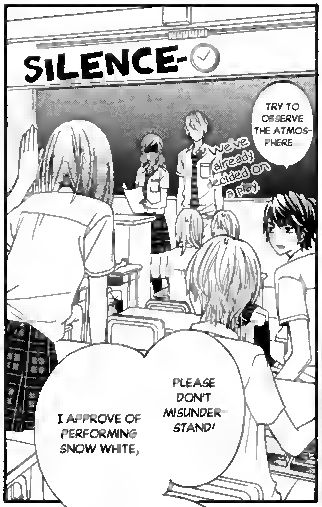
ALRIGHT—
Shining Fantasy
NAGASE-KUN IN TRADITIONAL CLOTHING !!!
WOW— I'D LIKE TO SEE THAT!
HE'LL DEFINITE-LY BE SUPER HANDSOME! ♥

HUH?!
SOMETHING LIKE SNOW WHITE, WITH SOU-KUN PLAYING THE PRINCE.
I PROPOSE


ANNOYED
KYAA
KYAA
KYAA


No way in hell in I gonna play "prince"!
Tokiwa, you bastard
You love!!
MORE IMPORTANTLY, ISN'T THERE A KISS SCENE THAT'S CRUCIAL TO THE PLOT?!
NAGASE-KUN AS A PRINCE.
BEING KISSED AWAKE BY SOU-KUN?!
WHO'S GOING TO BE SNOW WHITE?!

YES!!!
He sure is popular
UM
DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY OTHER IDEAS?


SILENCE-
TRY TO OBSERVE THE ATMOSPHERE
We've already decided on a play.
I APPROVE OF PERFORMING SNOW WHITE,
PLEASE DON'T MISUNDERSTAND!

WE DON'T HAVE ANY PEOPLE FROM THE DRAMA CLUB IN OUR CLASS.
SO WE'LL BE A HOT MESS IF WE TRY TO DO A SERIOUS PLAY

AND THE HANDSOME AND POPULAR NAGASE-KUN SHOULD DEFINITELY PLAY A LEAD ROLE!!!
Saeki-san sure is interesting~
BUT!!!

I FEEL THAT IT'S NECESSARY TO INSERT SOME COMEDY INTO IT.

Photography Club
A GENDER-BENDER PLAY?
OOH— THAT SOUNDS EXCITING!!!
WHILE MALES WILL WEAR FEMALE CLOTHING AND HAVE FEMALE ROLES. WE'LL STILL BE ACTING OUT SNOW WHITE ♪
GIRLS WILL WEAR MALE CLOTHING AND ACT AS MALES,
Hehehe
SNOW WHITE WILL OBVIOUSLY BE PLAYED BY NAGASE-KUN
HE'LL HAVE TO WEAR DISTASTEFUL FEMALE CLOTHING IN FRONT OF THE WHOLE SCHOOL AND BECOME THE LAUGHING STOCK OF THE WHOLE SCHOOL.
WELL, WE HAVEN'T DECIDED ON ROLES YET
ANYWAY, IF YOU KEEP DECLARING WAR ON SOU LIKE THIS, AYANE-CHAN IS GOING TO
AYA-CHAN?
HUH?

ANNA, DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING FROM AYA-CHAN?!
DON'T TELL ME THOSE TWO ARE REALLY DATING AGAIN?!
WHY ARE YOU SAYING AYA-CHAN'S NAME IN THE SAME SENTENCE AS THAT SHIT-HEAD NAGASE'S?!
Crap, what am I running my mouth for?!!
I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING!!!
NO, NO!!!

I HAVEN'T HEARD ANY-THING FROM AYA-CHAN.
I WAS JUST WONDERING IF SHE HAD ONE.
?
YOU'RE NOT GONNA ASK HER DIRECT LY?

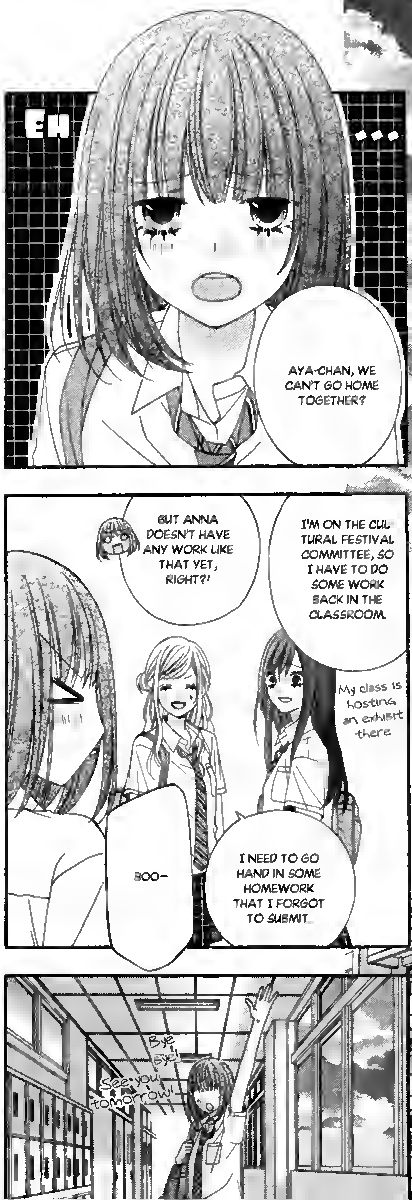
flips off
WHAT A LETDOWN.

BA-DUMP BA-DUMP
have I?
I haven't told any lies...
DOES ASOU-SAN HAVE A BOYFRIEND?
WHAT'S THIS?

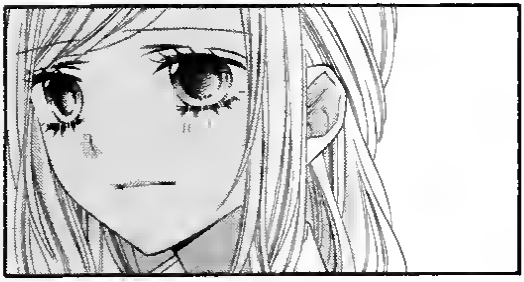
STUBBORN
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T UNDERSTAND THEM.
IT'S TRUE THAT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I CHOOSE TO IGNORE THE DYNAMICS OF A SITUATION
YOU'RE UNEXPECTEDLY MATURE.
IF I FORCE HER TO TELL ME THEN IT'S MEANINGLESS.
I WON'T ASK
...
IF I GET PUSHY AND INVADE HER BOUNDARIES, SHE MIGHT CUT TIES WITH ME COMPLETELY
I REALIZE THAT SHE HAS NO INTENTION OF LETTING ME GET ANY CLOSER TO HER THAN I AM NOW
EVEN THOUGH I LIKE AYA-CHAN A LOT,
I DON'T WANT THAT

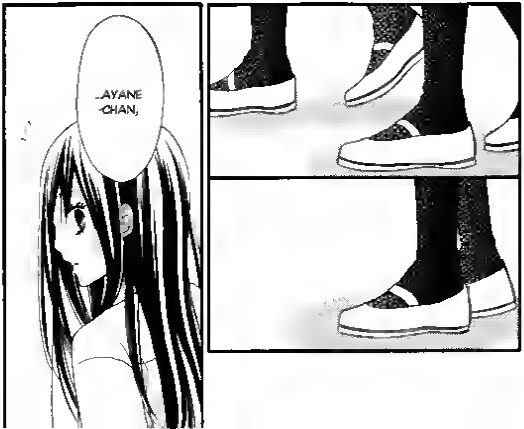
ANYWAY, AYA-CHAN IS REALLY LATE.
WELL, SHE DID SAY SHE WAS IN CHARGE OF CLEANING DUTY TODAY...
OPENS
I'M SORRY I'M LATE.
Cleaning took a long time
AYA-CHAN!♥
EVERYONE'S HERE
THEN, LET'S START THE MEETING FOR THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL!!!

WHAT'S THE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB GOING TO DO?
YOU DON'T KNOW, NANOKA?
I CAME UP WITH A PLAN.
THAT'S GREAT, AGOU-SAN, TELL US ABOUT IT.
IT'S A PURI KURA PHOTO BOOTH.
WE'LL TAKE PICTURES OF THE PEOPLE WHO COME AND PRINT THEM OUT AS STICKERS.
OH!!!
Sounds great!!
AYA-CHAN, THAT'S AMAZING!!!
...It really is something
Wouldn't it be nice to take purikura pictures after school?
Yeah!! Let's take it together!
If you think about it, it's not surprising,
far better than Ayane-chan realizes.
Nanoka understands Ayane-chan


EH...
AYA-CHAN, WE CAN'T GO HOME TOGETHER?
because they've been together since they were young
I'M ON THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL COMMITTEE, SO I HAVE TO DO SOME WORK BACK IN THE CLASSROOM.
BUT ANNA DOESN'T HAVE ANY WORK LIKE THAT YET, RIGHT?!
My class is hosting an exhibit there
I NEED TO GO HAND IN SOME HOMEWORK THAT I FORGOT TO SUBMIT.
BOO-
Bye! Bye!
See you tomorrow!

NANOKA REALLY HASN'T CHANGED IN ALL THESE YEARS.
SHE MIGHT CHANGE IF SHE GETS A BOYFRIEND OR SOMETHING, THOUGH




...AYANE -CHAN,

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN,
YOU SAID THAT NANOKA WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND EVEN IF YOU TOLD HER
BUT,
YOU REALLY AREN'T GOING TO TELL NANOKA ANYTHING?
ABOUT SOU...
IF YOU HAVE A PROPER TALK WITH NANOKA, I THINK SHE'LL BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND

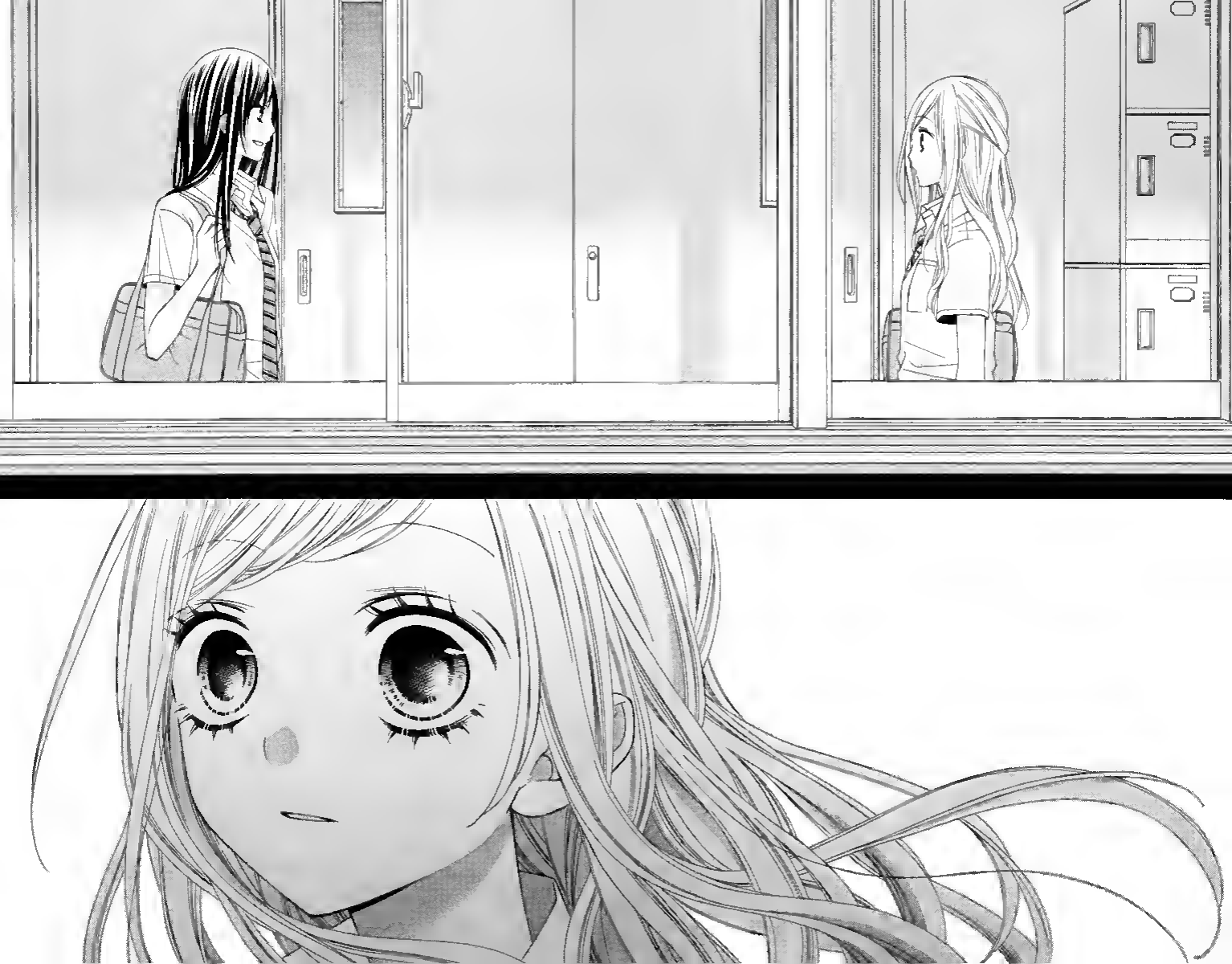
IF YOU GIVE UP..
YOU TWO ARE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS WHO'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR SO LONG
AND IT WOULD BE A SHAME IF YOU DIDN'T TREASURE THAT..
PFFT

IT'S JUST THAT I THINK WE GET ALONG BETTER IF THERE'S A LITTLE DISTANCE BETWEEN US.
IT DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T CARE ABOUT NANOKA, YOU KNOW.
EVEN IF I HAVE SOME SECRETS FROM HER,

MAN, ANNA-CHAN.

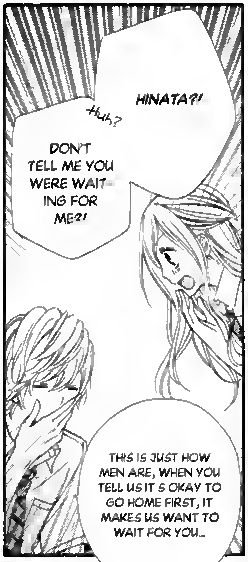
EVEN IF YOU'VE BEEN TOGETHER SINCE CHILDHOOD,
AS A RESULT, I THINK IT'S NATURAL FOR CHILDHOOD FRIENDS TO GROW APART.
YOU MEET LOTS OF NEW PEOPLE IN THE COURSE OF GROWING UP,
AND MANY THINGS CHANGE AND EVOLVE.
AND YOU INTERACT

THE REVERSE IS MORE PAINFUL, LIVING WHILE BEING BOUND AND HELD BACK
I'M SURE THAT'S THE CASE FOR SOU AS WELL.
...HUH?
SOU?
...YOU COULDN'T TELL?



GOOD WORK TODAY—
AH, ANNA

BUT HERE'S THE QUES-TION:
WHAT WOULD I HAVE DONE IF YOU HAD SAID, "WAIT FOR ME"?
EH?
So sudden!!!


HINATA?!
-Huh?
DON'T TELL ME YOU WERE WAIT ING FOR ME?!
THIS IS JUST HOW MEN ARE, WHEN YOU TELL US IT S OKAY TO GO HOME FIRST, IT MAKES US WANT TO WAIT FOR YOU...

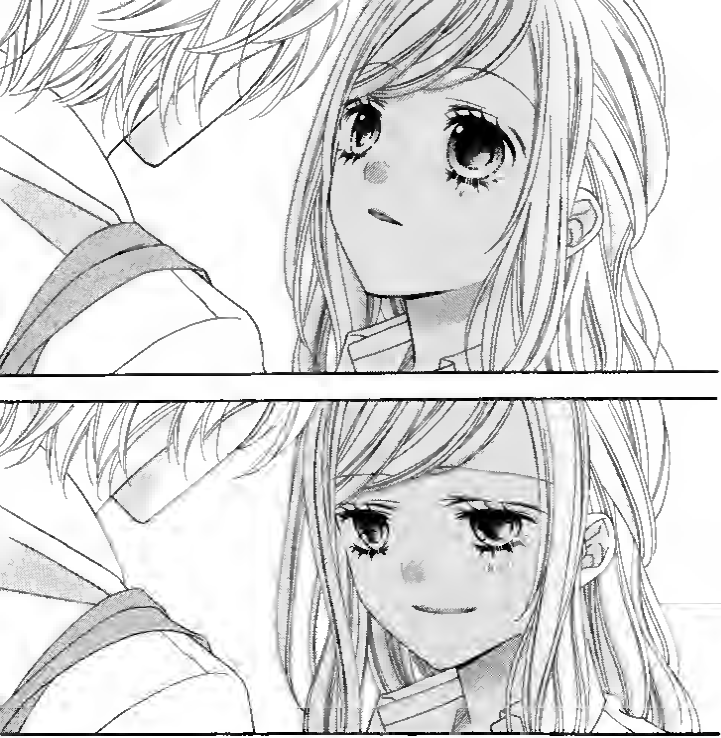
I THOUGHT YOU'D TAKE LONGER
YOU RE UNEXPECTED-LY EARLY

UH...
UM ER
NOPE–
YOU WOULD HAVE GONE HOME?
THANK YOU
I'D WAIT IN EITHER CASE
STANDS
GEEZ,
WHAT IS GOTTEN INTO YOU?
POP QUIZ!
WELL, I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU
I THOUGHT THAT PERSON MIGHT SAY SOMETHING TO YOU AGAIN

" YOU DON'T GET IT?"
YOU DID IT AGAIN
PSYCHIC HINATA
"HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY ENJOY SPENDING TIME WITH THEM?"
"IF THE PERSON YOU USED TO LIKE DATES YOUR BEST FRIEND "
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT RATIONAL- LY "YOU AND HINATA_KUN ARE LIKE "
HOW DID YOU KNOW?

"DESPITE THAT, YOU'RE BOUND AND HELD BACK BY RESTRAINTS CALLED CHILDHOOD FRIENDSHIP."
I FEEL SORRY FOR SOU.
I WONDER WHY

IT MIGHT BE BECAUSE I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU?



{ Stardust★Wink Chapter 41 // End }

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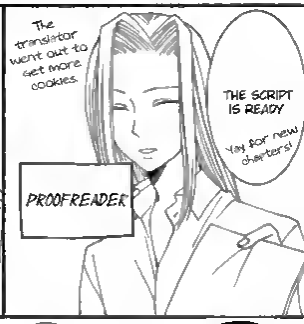
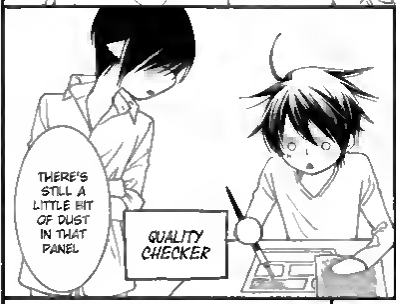
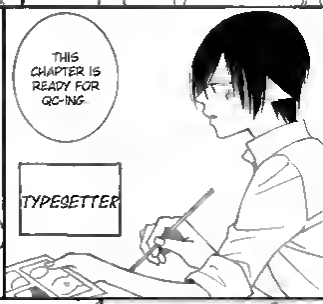
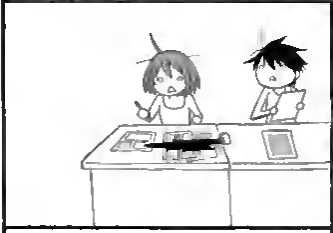
Work At Evil Flowers









AH! THE TRANSLATOR FORGOT TO TRANSLATE THIS SFX.
YOU NOISY PEST. WHO CARES?!
NO ONE'LL NOTICE IT!
THIS BUBBLE IS NOT CENTERED LET ME FIX IT
AH
SHUDDUP! DON'T TOUCH IT!
BUMP

evil flowers is recruiting!
We need:

- Translators (C/J/K)
- Proofreaders
- Editors (Cleaners / Typesetters)
- Quality-Checkers

Visit www.evilflowers.com for more info

Girls' Generation is Recruiting!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN NO RELEASES?!
THE GREAT ME DID NOT WANT TO PROOF READ ALL THOSE CHAPTERS
HOW ABOUT JOINING US AND WE'LL GET SOME RELEASES GOING
Thwaack! (sones had hurtled out I guess.
THERE WEREN'T ANY CLEANS FOR ME TO TYPE-SET SO I COULDN'T DO MY JOB
YOU'RE NOT BLAMING ME ARE YOU? I WAS GOING TO CLEAN, B... BUT POKEMON WAS ON-
W-WELL I WAS Too DISTRACTED CLEANING THE SMUTTY SCENES AND I... IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK...!
All at once
Frightened Readers